

ND NO.		CONFIDENTIAL		COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR	
RG NO.		SECURITY INFORMATION		I. D. NO. 1143308	
REPORT NO. R-33-55		GSUSA WDS INTELLIGENCE REPORT		25X1	
SUBJECT: Second Reconnaissance of Salvadoran-Guatemalan Frontier					
FROM:		REFERENCES: R-30-53		25X1	
EVALUATION: A-1		DATE OF INFORMATION: 19 March 1953		DATE OF REPORT: 23 March 1953	
INCL. TWO PREPAID BY:		reconnaissance		25X1	
<p>SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS: The second of a series of three reconnaissance trips of the Salvadoran-Guatemalan frontier was made on 19 March 1953. The areas visited included SAN CRISTOBAL, where the Interamerican Highway crosses into Guatemala, and the INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE over the RIO DE PAZ.</p> <p>The two principal points of entry into El Salvador from Guatemala are completely undefended except for a small, probably ineffective guard post at LAS CHINAMAS and the usual roving National Guard patrols. Life in this sector of the frontier gave every appearance of being perfectly normal.</p>					
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1. The second of a series of three reconnaissance trips of the Salvadoran-Guatemalan frontier was made on 19 March 1953. The areas visited included SAN CRISTÓBAL, where the Interamerican Highway crosses into Guatemala, and the INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE over the RIO DE PAZ, the only other point where an all-weather highway crosses the frontier. The "International Bridge" is located approximately two miles northwest of LAS CHINAMAS (C-4 Esso Road Map 1952.)

2. Major Fernando E. ERAZO, 2nd in Command of the National Guard Second Regional Command ("Comandancia"), accompanied us on the trip from SANTA ANA to the frontier at San Cristóbal. Major Erazo was recently transferred to Santa Ana from SAN MIGUEL, where he had held the same position in the Fifth Regional Command. Similarly, the Commandant in Santa Ana, Lt Col Jeremías MELARA Pérez, had been brought to Santa Ana within the past month from SAN SALVADOR, where he had been Commandant of the First Regional Command.

3. Major Erazo explained that the responsibility for the surveillance of the border was shared between the National Guard and the Treasury Police (Policia de Hacienda), however, from his subsequent conversation, it appears that the Treasury Police are almost wholly concerned with the control of contraband items while the National Guard is charged with all other aspects of law enforcement to include surveillance of the border areas to prevent the infiltration of propagandists and propaganda material.

4. Two National Guard patrols were encountered between Santa Ana and the frontier, a distance of about 20 miles. One consisted of three men; the other four. Each was commanded by a sergeant. Typical of these patrols, the men were well equipped, extremely neat and business-like. Except for the poorer quality of the material in their uniforms, their appearance was about equal with a U. S. Military Police Patrol. The sergeants rendered clear reports to Major Erazo, stating who they were, the route they were covering, and their particular mission.

5. The Salvadoran personnel at the port of entry at San Cristóbal included approximately the following:

- 1 Customs Inspector
- 2 Customs Police (Policia Aduanal)
- 3 Treasury Police (Policia de Hacienda)
- 3 National Police (Policia Nacional)
- 2 Immigration Officials.

From the appearance of the living quarters, this appeared to be the normal contingent of the post.

6. The only personnel observed at the International Bridge near Las Chinamas were two uniformed members of the customs police, one of which was on duty at the Salvadoran end of the bridge. There were no personnel or buildings of any description on the Guatemalan side.

7. In Las Chinamas, two miles inside of El Salvador, a new guard post was observed manned by a corporal and three or four recruits. The recruits, who otherwise were not a very lucrative source of information, did identify themselves as members of the 6th Infantry Regiment in AHUACHAPAN. The corporal was not available for questioning.

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8. The route from San Salvador to the frontier at San Cristóbal and from Santa Ana to Ahuachapán is a good 2-lane paved highway. The road from Ahuachapán to the International Bridge is of macadam construction and, although rough and extremely dusty in this season of the year, it is believed to be an all-weather route. (See Photographic Annex.)

COMMENT:

1. The two principal points of entry into El Salvador from Guatemala are completely undefended except for a small, probably ineffective guard post at Las Chinamas and the usual roving National Guard patrols. Life in this sector of the frontier gave every appearance of being perfectly normal.

2. The area of the Second Regional Command of the National Guard includes all of the Salvadoran-Guatemalan frontier. The recent shifting of Lt Col Melara and Major Erazo from the San Salvador and San Miguel headquarters to assume identical positions in this command is probably indicative of an increased interest in the security of this zone. These officers gave the impression of being alert and efficient. The former commandant in Santa Ana, Major Baltazar BARRAZA seemed to be a very poor type.

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1. Esso Road Map 1952
2. Photographic Appendix

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